



Grafton High School

Achieving Excellence

Friday, 11 December 2015

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Principal's Report

My apologies for the delay between newsletters this term. Julianna, who normally manages the newsletter, has been assisting at another school, relieving for the School Administration Manager who is currently ill. It is an acknowledgement of the work and skill of our office staff that they are sought out by other schools to assist in this way. In the mean time I have been extremely busy, along with Mr Bertus, managing the merit selection process to select four new Head Teacher positions, starting 2016. Before the end of this term we will have appointed new Head Teachers in Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), Science, Teaching and Learning, and Administration. I will introduce our new Head Teachers to you in our newsletters early next year when they take up their appointments.

In addition to this, I have been working on creating templates in the Sentral computerised administration system for our junior school reports. This has been a very time consuming process but I am hoping that you will agree that the fine product maintains the information provided in the previous reporting template, but overall is much better presented. The revised format is colour printed and includes a photo of the child on the front cover along with a summary of their overall achievements. The detail for each subject is now a little better laid out and easier to read. These reports were distributed to students on Thursday.

Presentation Evening

Despite the wild weather, our annual presentation evening was held on Wednesday night in our newly air conditioned school MPC. Students received awards in a range of areas including academic achievement, sporting achievement, contributions to the community and leadership. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers there to join me and school staff in acknowledging the outstanding commitment and success of our students.

Schools Spectacular

Congratulations to our Grafton High School dancers who participated in the 32nd Schools Spectacular in Sydney recently. This year, over 3,600 of the most talented singers, dancers, instrumentalists and actors from 491 NSW public schools took part in the show's final performances at the Qantas Credit Union Arena.

A big thank you must go to Mrs Bloch for her organisation and getting the students down and back safely. If you missed the initial broadcast you can catch the re-run on Saturday 12 December, from 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm, on GEM. The entire show will also be available to view via catch-up TV at Jump-in from Sunday 13 December 2015. Jump-in is a free, downloadable app. For details please see www.jump-in.com.au

I encourage you to watch the broadcast of the show. Young people are at the heart of all we do, and the Schools Spectacular is a celebration of the talent, creativity and commitment of our NSW public school students and teachers.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

This year, Grafton High School SRC, with the assistance of Mrs McLennan, will be running a Christmas Hamper drive, with the intent of donating the final hamper to the Women's Refuge. We invite everyone; staff, students and parents to bring into school any sort of non-perishable items, toys or food to include in our hamper. A gold coin donation would also be appreciated, as an alternative, in order to buy fresh produce. The hamper will be located in the Library. Your support for this hamper drive will be much appreciated!

Ending the Year

As we near the end of the year I thought I would outline the events occurring over the next two weeks. We finish this week with our annual "Battle of the Bands". Next Monday to Wednesday all years 7 to 10 students will participate in Activities Week. During this time Year 11 students will follow a special timetable of academic lessons.

The last day for students is next Wednesday 16th December. All staff will be back on the Thursday and Friday undertaking professional learning in a range of topics including a very important session run by Head Space for teaching staff on "Understanding Suicide".

Years 7, 11 and 12 students return to school on Thursday 28th January 2016, followed by Years 8, 9 and 10 on Friday 29th January.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all our staff and students over the course of the year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Peter South – Principal

Upcoming Events:

TERM 4 2015

Week 10

09/12 School Presentation Night: 6.30pm

10-11/12 Battle of the Bands MPC

Week 11

14-16/12 Activities Week

16/12 Last day of 2015 for Students

17-18/12 Staff Development Day

TERM 1 2016

Week 1

27/01 All Staff Return

28/01 Years 7, 11 & 12 first day

29/01 Years 8, 9 & 10 first day

Week 10

31/03 Last day Term 1 2016

Year 7 Washpool Excursion



On Tuesday the 3rd of November, 50 Year 7 students travelled to the magnificent Washpool National Park, part of the Gibraltar Range world Heritage Area. We explored the various types of vegetation and features of a tropical rainforest, walking along the beautiful Coombadhja Creek, absorbing the cool air and falling in the water (or some of us did).



After a picnic lunch we were treated to a talk by Ranger Koen, a very knowledgeable person who showed us a glider, powerful owl and a tiger quoll, all inhabitants of this special place. It was a fantastic day, and the behaviour of all students was impeccable.

Mr Robertson and Ms Morris

Girls Rock and Water Program

A big congratulations go to our latest group of rock and Water program 'warriors' for completing the course for this term. This engaging program assists students to become more self-aware, confident and able to manage their own emotions to solve problems that they may encounter in everyday life. They learn self-defence 'Rock and 'Water' skills which allow them to use appropriate attitudes, thoughts and responses to achieve desired consequences.



This term saw a group of strong and capable year seven students who applied themselves

brilliantly to the challenges of the Rock and Water Program. Those students who completed the program demonstrated great courage to complete the final Rock and Water challenge.



Students wrote about the course and Jasmine commented, "I think Rock and Water has definitely increased my confidence". Jessica claimed that, "water means calm and when in a situation, you do slow breaths." And Emily stated, "I learned not to worry."



Mrs Hargreaves

GRAFTON AND DISTRICT SCHOOLS

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SUSTAIN
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GEL-530TR
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KXT625PY
junior \$79⁹⁵



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- When you run, your feet absorb 3-4 times your own body weight.
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